

Y 439(3) POTTER BAR
Potters Bar Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(M. I. Outram, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

for the Year 1946

together with

THE REPORT

of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

(J. H. Rooley, M.R.San.I., M.R.I.P.H.H., M.S.I.A.)

Wyllyotts Manor,
Darkes Lane,
Potters Bar.

20th August, 1947.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Potters Bar Urban District Council.**

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report for 1946 on the health conditions in the Urban District of Potters Bar. The report complies with the directions of the Ministry of Health.

During the year under review, the Registrar General has recorded a considerable increase in the population of the district. The birth-rate compares favourably with that of the rest of the country, the death-rate very favourably, and the rates of infantile mortality and still births exceptionally favourably.

One notification of a case of diphtheria was received, the first for several years, but the case was that of an adult who had not been immunised and was not a local resident. Generally speaking, there has been less infectious disease during the year, though a small outbreak of infantile paralysis occurred, which was promptly dealt with. The Sunday Schools and children's film matinées were closed as a precautionary measure.

As regards housing, I am glad to note that the Council is giving priority to cases of tuberculosis and statutory overcrowding. During the year the urgently required services of an additional Sanitary Inspector were obtained.

Once again I wish to express my gratitude to Mr. Rooley for his able assistance, and to all members of the staff for their cheerful and willing help in all ways.

Your obedient servant,

M. I. OUTRAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,104 acres
Population (mid 1946)	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,350
Number of inhabited houses (31st December, 1946)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,554
Rateable Value (31st March, 1947)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£157,834
Estimated product of a penny rate (31st March, 1947)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£620

Vital Statistics

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	18.4
Birth-rate per 1,000 for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	19.1
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	8.7
Death-rate per 1,000 for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	11.5
Still Births per 1,000 for total births (live and still)	...	...	...	...	7.0

Infantile Mortality (deaths of infants under one year of age)

Death-rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	14.1
Death-rate per 1,000 live births for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	43.0

Births

	Live Births			Still Births		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	153	116	269	1	1	2
Illegitimate	9	5	14	0	0	0
TOTAL	162	121	283	1	1	2

Deaths—Causes

	Male	Female	Total
Influenza	2	1	3
Diabetes	1	1	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	0	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	0	1
Tuberculosis—Respiratory System	1	1	2
Tuberculosis—Other Forms	1	0	1
Syphilitic Diseases	1	0	1
Cancer—all forms	11	13	24
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	4	6	10
Heart Diseases	19	23	42
Other diseases of Circulatory System	2	6	8
Bronchitis	3	2	5
Pneumonia	4	3	7
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	0	1
Digestive diseases	2	0	2
Nephritis	1	3	4
Birth injuries, premature birth, etc.	1	1	2
Suicide	1	1	2
Other violent causes	2	2	4
All other causes	7	4	11
Totals	66	67	133

Note.—No deaths occurred from Scarlet Fever, Typhoid Fever, Cerebro-spinal Fever, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Measles, Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis.

Section B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health	...	M. I. Outram
Senior Sanitary Inspector	...	J. H. Rooley, M.R.San.I., etc.
Additional Sanitary Inspector	...	T. W. Agar, P.A.R.San.I., etc. (from 1st April, 1946)

(a) Laboratory Facilities

The contract made in 1944 with the Ministry of Health was renewed, and all specimens and samples for bacteriological or

other examination were dealt with at one of the E.M.S. laboratories. Specimens dealt with included milk, water, throat swabs, etc.

(b) Ambulance Facilities

On 31st December, 1946, the first full year of the Civil Ambulance Service was completed. During the year 405 journeys were carried out, involving a mileage of 5,832, an average of 14.4 miles per journey.

The personnel attached to the service remained at two full-time drivers and about thirty voluntary attendants. The Civil Ambulance service deals with all types of cases, except those of infectious disease, which are conveyed by the ambulance of the Joint Isolation Hospital.

(c) Nursing in the Home

Nurses Flower and Palmer of 269 Mutton Lane, Nurse Andrews of 255 Mutton Lane and Nurse Acason, St. Andrews, Oakmere Lane, were registered as practising nurses and midwives.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics

There are two clinics, one at the Village Hall, Potters Bar, and one at the Welfare Centre, Cranborne Road. Both these clinics are provided by and under the control of the Middlesex County Council, and give facilities for ante-natal, maternity and child welfare and dental services.

(e) Hospitals

There are three hospitals within the district, the Pawling Home Hospital for children at Kitts End, the Potters Bar and District Hospital, Mutton Lane, and the Clare Hall Sanatorium, administered by the Middlesex County Council.

Cases of infectious disease which require removal to hospital are sent to the Enfield, Edmonton and Potters Bar Joint Hospital. The Council is a member of this Board.

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The district is supplied by the Barnet District Gas and Water Company and samples of the water are submitted regularly for bacteriological examination by independent analysts. In all cases the results were satisfactory.

Very few properties are without mains water supply, and during the year under review a further twenty-one properties were provided with independent mains supply. In some cases these properties had previously relied on joint outside stand pipes and in others on well supply. Supervision of the few wells still in use is maintained.

Sewerage

Both the soil and surface water systems of the district have been trouble-free during the year with the exception of flooding which occurred following the rapid thaw in the early part of the year. The Elmroyd-Oakroyd area was flooded, also the Laurel Avenue area.

The main reason for flooding was the abnormal rate of thaw and the quantity of snow water to be taken by the sewerage system.

The whole matter is under investigation by the Engineer and Surveyor.

Sewage Disposal

The Potters Bar and South Mimms Sewage Disposal Works continue to function satisfactorily.

Public Cleansing

The new refuse tip is now in full operation.

The refuse collection has been restored to a regular fortnightly service. Few complaints are now being received by the Engineer and Surveyor's Department.

The scheme for the collection of kitchen waste remains under the control of the Council and continues to operate reasonably satisfactorily, although it does appear that householders are not making full use of the service, and efforts are being made to bring before the public the urgency of saving kitchen waste.

Section D

Housing

(See page 10 of the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.)

Section E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(See page 10 of the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.)

Section F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The notifiable diseases other than Tuberculosis during the year 1946 were :

Disease	Cases Notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	36	26	0
Lobar Pneumonia	19	2	1
(primary or influenzal)			
Whooping Cough	44	1	0
Measles	104	1	0
Pyrexia	2	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	8	7	1
Diphtheria	1	1	0

No cases of Erysipelas, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Cerebro-spinal Fever or Dysentery occurred.

Diphtheria Immunisation

During 1946, twelve clinics were held at which 201 children under 5 and 20 children over 5 received immunisation. To these figures must be added those of children immunised by private doctors. The " Boost " scheme mentioned in last year's report commenced in January, 1946, and during the year 7 clinics were held at which 576 children received the invigorating dose. Although all parents of those children who were immunised five years or more previously were individually invited to bring their children for the " Boost," only a comparative few took advantage of the scheme.

The position at the end of the year is shown in the table below. In December one case of Diphtheria occurred and this was the first since 1942. The notification was a blow to the " clean " record of the district, but it should be stated that the case was an adult who had not been immunised.

In 1946 the responsibility for securing the immunisation of children was transferred from this Authority to the Middlesex County Council. The County Council, however, expressed complete satisfaction with the scheme in operation in this area and asked that it be continued on their behalf.

Age Group	Under 5 years	5-15 years	Total
Number of children who have completed a course of immunisation	796	2,003	2,799
Percentage of estimated child population	65.2	94.9	84.1

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	-
25-35	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
35-45	3	1	-	1	1	1	-	-
45-55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
over 65	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals 1946	3	8	1	1	2	1	-	-
1945	4	6	6	4	4	2	-	1

The number of persons on the Tuberculosis Register at the commencement and end of the year is shown in the following table, as the above gives no indication of inward and outward transfers, or of persons cured.

	Pulmonary			Non-pulmonary			Total
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
Total on register at commencement of year	42	47	89	13	17	30	119
Total on register at end of year	45	57	102	10	11	21	123

ANALYSIS UNDER AGE GROUPS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	0-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	Over 65	Total 1946	Total 1945
Scarlet Fever	4	30	2	-	-	36	14
Whooping Cough	25	19	-	-	-	44	22
Measles	48	53	3	-	-	104	287
Lobar Pneumonia (primary or influenzal) }	2	4	7	4	2	19	10
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	2	-	-	2	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	7	-	-	-	8	-
Diphtheria	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTALS	80	113	15	4	2	214	367

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith my report for the year 1946. In some respects it has been possible to give more detailed information than during the war years.

As anticipated in my report of last year the work of Housing Management was transferred to the Public Health Department at the beginning of the year, and, following the introduction of a points scheme under which most lettings of Council controlled properties are made, revised forms of application were issued to all known applicants. At the beginning of the year these numbered about 650, but at the end of the year this figure had grown to over 1,000, in spite of the fact that nearly 100 lettings had been made during the year.

The position of Additional Sanitary Inspector, vacant at the end of 1945, was refilled in April of this year (by the return of Mr. Agar), and the services of a junior shorthand-typist were also obtained during the year.

As will be seen from tables contained in this report much work was done in the improvement of public health conditions. In 21 cases, houses were connected for the first time to the public water mains, and at one large milk-producing farm in the district all sewage was diverted from its previous outlet into the public watercourse, to the main sewer. This scheme also included the connection of four cottages to the sewer.

For the first time for some years it is also possible to record some improvement in overcrowding. Due to the high priority given to overcrowded cases (a wise decision on the part of the Council) no less than eighteen cases of overcrowding were abated during the year. In most cases this was done by rehousing sub-tenants at the properties overcrowded.

Rodent control work continued during the year, and at the request of the Ministry of Food a test baiting of the sewers was carried out. Details of the results of this test are given elsewhere, but I would like to emphasise that these results only confirmed the opinion expressed to the Ministry of Food on several occasions and in previous reports that the soil sewer system of this district was not infested.

I remain, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. ROOLEY.

HOUSING

For the first time for some years it is possible to report some improvement in the general housing conditions of the population. During 1946 155 additional properties were occupied, and while this extra accommodation was to some extent offset by the return of members of H.M. Forces, there is little doubt that, on balance, conditions were easier. It is also most gratifying to report that statutory overcrowding is diminishing, eighteen cases having been relieved during the year.

The Public Health Department now deals with all housing applications, which, to a large extent (although not completely) are now assessed on the need of the applicant. This is done by the application of a points scheme under which high priority is given to persons residing in property statutorily overcrowded. Priority is also given to those persons suffering from tuberculosis, and in this way it is hoped that some contribution is being made to the control of this disease.

Additional to the points scheme a " priority list " is maintained, and the names of applicants who have Ejectment Orders made against them are automatically added to this list. Transfers (usually only on medical grounds or to relieve overcrowding) are placed on the priority list, and also the names of tenants of requisitioned properties which have been approved for release to the owners.

As will be seen from the Table of Improvements which appears on page 14, many items of repair and improvement were carried out to houses. In only one case was it necessary to take statutory action, and although much delay often occurred, the service of an informal notice usually resulted in the carrying out of the works required. Formal action under Sections 9 and 11 of the Housing Act was not taken during the year, but 9 houses were brought to a satisfactory standard by the voluntary submission of schemes of reconditioning by the owners.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply

At the end of the year there were two tuberculin tested producers, six accredited and eleven other producers in the district. In addition there were four retailers dealing with milk not produced within the district. Under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations there were 5 dealers' and 5 supplementary licences in force, authorising the sale of designated milks.

During the year seventy-nine milk samples were taken and 193 visits and inspections made to farms and dairies. Results of the samples were again very satisfactory, and, taken in conjunction

with the results of samples taken by the Advisory Staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, they show that milk production in this district is carried on in a clean and satisfactory manner.

	Routine			Repeat			Totals		
	Sat.	Unsat.	Total	Sat.	Unsat.	Total	Sat.	Unsat.	Total
Designated	25	0	25	0	0	0	25	0	25
Non-designated	39	1	40	0	0	0	39	1	40
Retailers	12	1	13	1	0	1	13	1	14
TOTALS	76	2	78	1	0	1	77	2	79

Percentage of Routine Samples Unsatisfactory

1946	...	2.6%
1945	...	3.1%
1944	...	12.7%
1943	...	20.9%

(b) Meat and Other Foods

During the year sixty visits in connection with the inspection of meat and other foods were made, resulting in the surrender of the food shown in the accompanying table. In addition thirty-three inspections of food premises, street vendors' vehicles, bake-houses, etc., were made.

At one of the private slaughterhouses no slaughtering was done during the year, and at the second only on two occasions were pigs slaughtered under licence.

Unsound Food—1946

Canned Meat and Fish	65 tins
Poultry	47 lbs.
Bacon	56 ³ / ₄ lbs.
Fish	19 stone
Canned Fruit and Vegetables	38 tins
Dried Fruit	74 lbs.
Cereals	10 cwts. 10 lbs.
Cheese	22 lbs.
Preserves	3 tins
Eggs	240
Canned Milk	39 tins
Corned Beef and Mutton	261 ³ / ₄ lbs.

RODENT CONTROL, 1946

Although the Additional Sanitary Inspector did not resume his duties until April, 1946, a considerable amount of work, particularly that relating to the Council's properties, was undertaken.

The outstanding feature of the year's work was undoubtedly the "test baiting" of the Council's soil sewers insisted upon by the Ministry of Food under the "Private Dwellings—Special Scheme 1946/1947."

Preparatory arrangements, covering a considerable period, included the location of hundreds of manholes, the listing and plotting of the sewers and their outfalls, and the preparation of plans of the different areas showing the position of manholes and "dead ends." Of the 510 manholes located 109 were "baited" with sausage rusk, and except for one all showed "no takes." The exception, after subsequent visits and examination, is no doubt problematical. The results, as ascertained, served to confirm the opinion expressed in former reports that the Council's sewers are not responsible for the surface infestations discovered.

The large or "reservoir" type of infestation which persists at the Refuse Tip and the Sewage Works continues to receive attention, although inclement weather and the pressure of other duties caused considerable delay in treatment.

Pending the acceptance by the Ministry of the Council's application to join the Special Scheme, the Department continued to undertake the disinfection of private properties at the occupiers' expense. Disinfection work by the staff was carried out at twenty-eight premises, this number including the Council's properties. Occupiers themselves undertook the work at eighteen. Surveys, inspections and visits under this head numbered 374.

The number of complaints received fell to about a half of that during 1945, and there was also an appreciable difference in the extent of individual infestations. Informal notices respecting infestations at private properties were served in twenty instances. Again it was not found necessary to serve a single Statutory Notice.

Summary

Number of complaints received	44
Number of surveys and inspections	184
Number of premises affected	81
Number non-affected	9
Number of revisits	190
Number of complaints outstanding at end of year	6
Disinfection works by Public Health Dept. Staff (including 6 at Council properties and 2 mice infestations)	28

DISINFECTIONS

Disinfection of premises and effects following cases of infectious disease was carried out at forty-nine properties. Formalin solution or vapour generators were usually employed, and where steam disinfection was required for bedding, etc., arrangements were made for use of the plant at Clare Hall Sanatorium or Well-house Hospital.

Other disinfections at the request of medical practitioners or following deaths were carried out in sixteen cases.

At the time of the infantile paralysis outbreak all schools in the area were disinfected as a precautionary measure.

Disinfestations

Five houses were fumigated to eradicate vermin during the year. There were two cases of infestation by bugs, two by fleas and one by ants. In these cases, and in others of a precautionary nature against flies, D.D.T. was used. In all cases complete success was obtained and there is no doubt that this preparation gives a remarkable improvement on other insecticides previously used.

The Public Health Department van was used for all transport in connection with disinfestation and disinfection work.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Vitamins for Children

The Public Health Department continued to act as a distributing centre for fruit juices, vitamins, etc. The distribution of supplies to other centres from bulk stores is also done by the department.

TABLE OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Visits and inspections under the Public Health Acts	...	1,155
Visits and inspections under the Housing Acts	...	200
Visits and inspections under the Food and Drugs Act	...	168
Visits and inspections under the Factories Act and Petroleum Acts	... ..	104
Shops Act inspections	...	35
Visits and inspections re Infectious Diseases	...	107
Inspections and visits re Rodent Control	...	374
Administrative visits	...	404
Total visits and inspections		2,547

EXTRACTS FROM DETAILS OF VISITS

Complaints Investigated

(a) General	...	196
(b) re Rodent Control	...	44
Visits re Water Supply	...	137
Visits re Drainage	...	332
Visits re Meat or Food Inspection	...	60
Inspections—Food Preparing Premises	...	20
Inspections—Cowsheds and Dairies	...	193
Inspections—Street Vendors, Hawkers, etc.	...	13
Visits re Milk Sampling	...	89

EXTRACTS FROM TABLE OF IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT FOLLOWING FORMAL OR INFORMAL ACTION

Water Supply : New Services provided	...	21
Water Supply : Services repaired and improved	...	18
Drainage : Systems repaired, cleansed or provided	...	62
Dustbins renewed	...	25
Additional Sanitary Accommodation provided	...	9
Miscellaneous Improvements	...	172

DETAILS OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL ACTION

Number of houses in respect of which Informal Notices were served	...	50
Number of houses where improvements were effected following service of Informal Notices	...	66
Number of houses in respect of which Statutory Notices were served and complied with	...	1

Notes

Notes
